

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 418
By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mary Carol Feeney.

WHEREAS, it was with a deep sense of loss that the Tennessee General Assembly and the citizens of our state learned of the death of Mary Carol Feeney; and

WHEREAS, few times in life do we encounter individuals who genuinely care about those people outside of their immediate surroundings; individuals who have dedicated their lives to the betterment of other people are truly rare diamonds to be treasured in this world; and

WHEREAS, Carol Feeney was one such person who put her beliefs into action by means of tangible fruitful work to improve inner city communities; and

WHEREAS, she was known to her friends and co-workers as “one of the most untiring, courageous activists for the poor--a Mother Teresa without the fame”; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Feeney was the founder and retired director of the landmark Neighborhood Education Project, a community-based literacy program designed to help meet growing inner-city demands; and

WHEREAS, NEP became a national model for community-based literacy programs because each site included free child care and was situated within walking distance of the participants' homes; and

WHEREAS, she received the annual Philanthropist Award for Civic Leadership in 1995; and

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WHEREAS, she was born Mary Carol Feeney in Louisville, Kentucky, the daughter of former Joseph and Mary Margaret Feeney; and

WHEREAS, she attended Ursuline College in Cleveland and Spalding College in Louisville; in 1958, she joined the Dominican Order of St. Catherine of Siena in Springfield, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Feeney received her Bachelor's degree from Siena College in Memphis and her Master's degree in religious education from Fordham University in New York City; and

WHEREAS, she served with dedication and distinction as a teacher in her Catholic Order after receiving her Bachelor's degree; and

WHEREAS, she left the Catholic Order after twenty (20) years because she felt she could do more good in the secular world; and

WHEREAS, she traveled throughout the Southwest and Appalachia for Nashville's Glennmary Home Missioners as a teacher, helping rural Catholic parishes develop religious education programs; and

WHEREAS, she served as a organizer for Clergy and Laity Concerned, organizing trips to Nicaragua and El Salvador; and

WHEREAS, she worked with the Methodists teaching simple-living workshops throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, she was married to Rowland Huddleston; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should pause to honor the memory of this great humanitarian and social activist; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Mary Carol Feeney, reflecting on her many selfless contributions to the State of Tennessee's inner city communities and her fellow citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.